

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
February 26, 2014



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Bartlett H. Stoodley, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

I. Roll Call:

Present: Richard Brown, Nickole DeMerritt, James Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Pender Makin, Tessa Mosher, Christian Muhitira, Colin O'Neill, Jonathan J. Shapiro, Lisa Sandy, JJAG Chair Bartlett Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Esq., Paul Vestal, Patrick Walsh,

Absent: Kamden Berry, Mark Boger, Ned Chester, Esq., Abby Comee-McCourt, Dalene Dutton, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Amber Heikkinen, Hon. Charles LaVerdiere, Sheriff Randall A. Liberty, Margaret Longworth, Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Dan Nichols, Dr. Lindsey Tweed

Staff: Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Jason Carey, Staff Assistant

Guest: Lynn Witten, OCFS

The JJAG Meeting was called to order by Barry Stoodley, Chair, at 9:14 A.M. and introductions were held.

Barry noted that some JJAG members simply cannot attend on Wednesday meetings so we will look for another potential day to meet.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the January 22, 2014 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the January 22, 2013 Minutes

Moved: Jim Foss/Patrick Walsh

Action: Approved

III. Chair:

Introductions - As per usual, introductions were made with elaboration for fresh attendees. Lynn Whitney will be sitting in for Lyndsey Tweed. Lynn is one of six clinical care specialists in the state.

Patrick Walsh reminds us that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 1st there will be a rally at the State House. There was some interest in developing a presentation from the JJAG for such an event.

Ryan Andersen mentioned his new status overseeing PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) compliance.

Colin O'Neill's position has changed to the Assistant Director of Treatment for the Dept. of Corrections. He works both in the field and in the facilities.

Meeting dates/time vote - Barry noted the importance of committee communication and function. As each committee prepares minutes, it's important to put those minutes before the full JJAG. The system allows all committee minutes be disseminated to the full membership in order to interconnect committees within the JJAG. No minutes will be publically available until they have been ratified by the full JJAG.

As a result of a survey of the Executive Committee members the JJAG will hold its quarterly full JJAG meeting on the 4th Friday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. An adjustment will be made for December.

Motion: To approve full JJAG meetings on the fourth Friday morning of March, June, September and a date to be decided for December.

Moved: Jonathan Shapiro/Jim Foss

Action: Approved (one abstention)

There was discussion about the possibility of precluding members. We want to be careful not to preclude members.

Barry suggested the withdrawal of the motion to approve and address the meeting schedule change at the March meeting. Jonathan maintained his motion. After some discussion, the motion carried. The Regular JJAG Meetings will be held on the fourth Friday of the Month in the months of *March, June, September, and in December at a date to be decided*. **Next meeting date will be March 28th from 9-noon.**

CJJ Conference attendance – Christine Thibeault expressed an interest to attend the Conference for Juvenile Justice Conference on June 18th to 21st 2014 in Washington, DC.

Recommendations for Governor in Annual Report – not covered.

3 Year Plan Update – Each committee is responsible to produce identified updates to the Plan in the form of Needs & Problems Statements while in breakout committee meetings today. Each committee can talk about needs and gap areas in order to supply the Update with relevant and timely information. Members are asked to review these needs and problems and share input.

The Plan Update will be due within 60 days of receiving the solicitation which has not yet been released. Since the sub-committees are host to field experts, there will be insightful change initiated.

Work on Google Products is in progress, along with other technologies: *GMail, Google Docs, Google Calendar, Google Drive...* Jason will send email survey to gather technical information and develop troubleshooting approach as it rolls out.

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Update on NE TA w/ Dr. Lisa Hutchinson – Barry took time and publically thank Dr. Hutchinson and OJJDP for investing time and quality technical assistance. The JJAG, feeling energized, is moving in new directions.

Compliance Monitor Report – The annual report was sent to OJJDP electronically with hard copies to Administrator Robert Listenbee, our OJJDP state representative, and our monitoring coordinator Liz Elissa Rumsey. Ryan noted the compliance report he delivered was very favorable for the State of Maine showing 100% compliance.

EPIY (Effective Police Interactions w/ Youth) initiative has been going well. At a training held in Brunswick, January 2014, there were 19 participants. This was four over the list of registrants, which is great! Two will be held on March 21st at the Auburn PD and March 31st at Kaplan University for the host department of Kennebec County Sheriff's Office.

PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) non-compliance will result in a 5% reduction in the following grants: Everett J Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act Formula Grant, and the Office of Violence Against Women Grant. That would total, for the State of Maine, a reduction of about \$98,000+ and about \$20,000 for the JJAG. It will be helpful for the Systems Improvement Committee to keep informed and share areas that need the attention of the JJAG. The juvenile justice system will suffer the loss of funding if the adult system is found out of compliance.

A review of PREA standards against departmental policies is taking place to prepare for a meeting with the Commissioner on the 19th of March. A report will be provided to the Governor to allow him to provide a certification of compliance for the Office of Justice Programs by May 15th. Now that PREA standards are finalized, Governors across the country will be asked to certify their state's compliance on the basis of their departmental reports.

Ryan Andersen is currently functioning as the interim Senior Planner for PREA Compliance.

III. Departmental Reports:

Departmental reporting is very important for the JJAG. Reporting departments are asked keep the reports brief and focus on problem areas or achievements that the JJAG should be aware of.

DOE – Jim Rier is now commissioner.

DPS – The Old Orchard Beach, Saco & Dayton JCRB (Juvenile Community Review Board) is becoming a regional group with the addition of Biddeford. Biddeford has made a request to be part of JCRB as they look for early diversion options for kids. JCRB could include some of the underage drinking programs already developed by

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Jonathan Shapiro. The JCRB reached its first milestone when its first referral came from the DA's office in Biddeford. The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine is currently distributing its model throughout Southern Maine.

The *Police Response for Juveniles in Crisis* Report included four years of data on 150 kids from five counties. This year was the first year state police have a static patrol in a single community. With a constant presence, it will be easier to collect and process data. This presence produced a drop in delinquent behavior by 50% and is projected to drop another 50% in the coming year. There are several reports available about this programming. Sgt. Shapiro will provide more information on request.

DOC – Sue Smith is the RCA (Regional Correctional Administrator) in Region I. Galan Williamson is the RCA in Region II. David Barrett remains the RCA in Region III. New RCMs (Regional Correctional Manager) include John Coyne, Region I, Chris Raymond, Region II and Josh Ash, Region III.

Recent attempted escapes in a juvenile facility are being investigated and addressed.

The Young Adult Offender Program begins serving 18 to 25 year olds at Mountain View Youth Development Center on April 2nd.

III. Committee Meetings:

Committees are asked to formalize a plan for subsequent committee meetings so that JJAG members who would like to participate may join in.

The work of the JJAG will be in the hands of all sub-committees. All work completed in the committees are subject to ratification and oversight by the JJAG.

Committees are asked to promptly supply needs and problems statements to update the Maine Comprehensive Three-year Plan for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

The Committees will be the engine of the JJAG. Committees will meet in the off months of JJAG meetings, or as needed. Committees may invite non-member experts, special guests, and other JJAG members as needed to provide guidance.

Committee Co-chairs will make sure minutes are kept. Minutes kept by the committee are then shared with all JJAG members during a regular meeting.

**Break for committee meetings* 10:38 a.m. resume at 11:24 a.m.

IV. Committee Reports:

Disproportionate Minority Contact – Information was shared about the last DMC meeting, February 18th, covering the RED (Racial & Ethnic Disparity) and JDAI

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(Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) initiatives with a representative from Muskie School of Public Service which currently manages the JDAI Ann E. Casey grant. This committee is interested in identifying candidates to help increase the size of the committee.

The Committee is considering a new Restorative Justice Project in the Lewiston/Auburn area.

There is an ongoing discussion about funding for DMC.

The committee discussed translating letters sent to parents, such as the Notice of Interview letter, into different languages in order to communicate effectively with many local cultures.

Training & Education (Delinquency Prevention) – The Committee identified goals for their committee: explore the cost efficiency of Delinquency Prevention Programming and provide information to legislators and other relevant parties; to provide statewide educational and training opportunities around concepts like the dangers of detention and identifying and inviting representatives into the TE think tank.

The Committee will be emailing a survey to JJAG members to find out who should be invited to speak with the Training & Education “think tank.”

The Committee will ask JJAG members to aid in the expansion of the Training & Education Committee. The hope is to have statewide participation. The monthly meetings will take place mostly in a virtual environment.

The Committee reiterates that collaboration is very important between committees and suggests a single person from each committee to establish and maintain a cross-committee communication exchange to ensure the support the work of all committees possibly electronically.

The Training & Education Committee wishes to explore inequities: racial, ethnic, gender, social, disabilities, etc...

Motion: To approve Training & Education Minutes

Moved: Pender Makin

Action: Approved

Marketing & Outreach – The M&O Committee is working on defining a meeting time before the next full JJAG Meeting; most likely teleconference or other virtual solution.

The Committee would also like to refresh/update all juvenile related statistics like drop-out rates, CPS and others for the 3 Year Plan Update. They plan to reach out to local media forums, expand the website and build contact with local media. [Linked-In](#)

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is of some interest as a builder of a regional/national conversation.

The Committee would like to develop a budget to produce videos like “What Happens When...” so juveniles and families can know what to expect in the juvenile justice system. Kids could be shown what they are expected to wear to court, if the parents are allowed in the court room, as well as an unlimited number of other questions. The Committee plans will identify what kids need.

Motion: To approve Marketing & Outreach Minutes

Moved: Nickole DeMerritt

Action: Approved

If there are proposals from committees to create assets like video is appropriate for the committee to bring those proposals to the full JJAG for a vote. Where the full JJAG will only be meeting quarterly, the executive committee will be able to hear any such proposal in a timely manner as it will meet monthly. After the Executive Committee has heard the proposal it can then send emails out to the full JJAG to capture a digital vote (or some other means).

When a committee develops and ratifies a set of minutes, the committee may request that the minutes be ratified by the full JJAG; the minutes will then become official.

Youth Engagement – The Committee is looking for up to 20 youth members in order to keep a healthy and engaged youth membership. The YEC is looking to others for assistance with a youth membership list. Once the JJAG acquires new young members the Committee feels strongly about having programming in place to maintain the youth member.

Arabella Perez, THRIVE and Youth will present at the March 28th JJAG meeting to speak about youth engagement.

System Improvement – The meeting schedule will be monthly and most likely telephonically. The Committee is interested in being a clearing house for information related to juvenile justice. A goal of the SIC is to improve the range of dispositions, closing gaps in services and identifying common and individual needs.

The SIC has identified a need for improved advocacy. Many lawyers may not understand juvenile and adolescent development, trauma, and generally what works for kids. The Committee wishes to do this in a way that the JJAG can assess progress.

The JJAG has been asked for nominating committee members by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

IX. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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The next meeting will be March 28, 2013 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

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